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STAKES WINNER COOL ARROW HEADS FULL FIELD OF 2-YEAR-OLDS FOR INAUGURAL \$300,000 SPENDTHRIFT STALLION STAKES ON OPENING DAY AT CHURCHILL DOWNS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, Oct. 27, 2016) – A full field of 14 two-year-olds, led by stakes winner **Cool Arrow**, was entered Thursday for Sunday's inaugural running of the \$300,000-guaranteed Spendthrift Stallion Stakes – the most lucrative race on Churchill Downs' opening day program.

Billed as "Stars of Tomorrow I," each of Sunday's 10 races is for 2-year-olds. The Spendthrift Stallion Stakes, one of three stakes on the juvenile showcase day, is the featured event and will go as Race 9 at approximately 5 p.m. (all times Eastern). The first race is 1 p.m.

The new Spendthrift Stallion Stakes – made possible through a partnership between Churchill Downs and Lexington, Ky.-based breeding operation **Spendthrift Farm** – is a lucrative seven-furlong sprint exclusively for 2-year-old offspring sired by any active or non-active Spendthrift stallion, including all Spendthrift-owned stallions standing regionally in North America.

Cool Arrow, bred by **H. Allen Poindexter**, owned by **Brad Grady** and trained by **Joe Sharp**, is one of nine entries sired by top stallion **Into Mischief**, who stood for \$45,000 during the 2016 breeding season.

"We're in it to win it," Sharp said. "For this kind of money, we're excited about the opportunity."

Designed to benefit both racehorse owners and breeders, the \$300,000 purse has been structured with a unique approach to award \$150,000 to the owners of the placed horses, with the other \$150,000 allocated to award the breeders of the first-through-fourth-place finishers. Specifically, the winning breeder will earn \$60,000, with \$40,000 going to the breeder of the runner-up, \$30,000 for third, and \$20,000 for fourth.

Cool Arrow figures to vie for favoritism in the Spendthrift Stallion after surging to a comfortable 2 ½-length victory in Remington Park's \$75,000 Kip Deville on Sept. 25. It was the Kentucky-bred's second victory in four starts and his first race since undergoing throat surgery to alleviate a breathing issue after his July 15 maiden-claiming win at Laurel Park.

"For him to run that big of an effort, I think he'll definitely improve off of that," Sharp said. "He's come back and trained fantastic at Trackside. We're really looking forward to Sunday. I don't think the seven-eighths (of a mile) will be an issue."

Cool Arrow landed post 12 and will be ridden for the first time by **Brian Hernandez Jr.**

"I like the 12-hole because it'll let the jockey monitor the speed and he can do as he pleases," Sharp said. "Cool Arrow doesn't need to be on the lead; he can come from off it. But we'll have the run down the backside to make some decisions. We're confident in Brian's ability to make those right decisions."

Hernandez takes over the reins from **Joel Rosario**, who will ride **Juddmonte Farms Inc.**'s homebred **South Sea**, also a Kentucky-bred son of Into Mischief. Overall, Rosario was named on seven mounts Sunday, and five are aboard juveniles trained by Hall of Famer **Bill Mott**, including South Sea, who invades from New York after scoring an up-the-rail, one-length maiden special weight victory at Belmont Park on Oct. 8.

William K. Helwig and **Brent Gasaway's All Right**, the 44-1 upset winner of the \$343,855 Kentucky Downs Juvenile at seven furlongs on grass for trainer **Kellyn Gorder**, will test dirt for the first time after finishing ninth of 14 in the \$250,000 Bourbon (Grade III) at Keeneland on Oct. 9.

Another top contender is **Churchill Downs Racing Club's** maiden **Warrior's Club** from the barn of Hall of Fame trainer **D. Wayne Lukas**. The Warrior's Reward colt hopes to delight it's 200 members after crossing the finish line in second in his last two starts against crack juveniles **Wild Shot**, who'd go on to run third in the Breeders' Futurity (GI) at Keeneland, and **Speedmeister**, who could go favored in Sunday's \$80,000-added Street Sense at Churchill Downs after a dazzling maiden triumph at Keeneland.

Other horses that figure to attract attention at the betting windows include Indiana-bred maiden winner **Candy Snatcher**; recent Keeneland maiden-claiming winner **Hunka Burning Love** and promising maidens **Lawton**, **Theoryintopractice**, **Hollow Point** and unraced California shipper **Menace the Dennis**, who is trained by two-time Kentucky Derby-winner **Doug O'Neill**.

The complete Spendthrift Stallion Stakes field from the rail out (with jockeys and sire): **On Probation** (Sophie Doyle, Into Mischief), **Lawton** (Robby Albarado, Archarcharch), **Chocolateicecream** (Corey Lanerie, Wilburn), **Warrior's Club** (Miguel Mena, Warrior's Reward), **South Sea** (Joel Rosario, Into Mischief), **All Right** (Channing Hill, Dominus), **Sister Nation** (Tyler Gaffalione, Into Mischief), **Tiz Trevor** (Ty Kennedy, Tizway), **Hunka Burning Love** (Florent Geroux, Into Mischief), **Menace the Dennis** (Ricardo Santana Jr., Into Mischief), **Candy Snatcher** (Orlando Mojica, Into Mischief), **Cool Arrow** (Brian Hernandez Jr., Into Mischief), **Hollow Point** (Julien Leparoux, Into Mischief) and **Theoryintopractice** (Colby Hernandez, Into Mischief).

On Probation and Sister Nation are fillies.

The Spendthrift Stallion Stakes joins a pair of one-mile, \$80,000-added overnight stakes – the open-company Street Sense and Rags to Riches for fillies – on Churchill Downs' opening day program.

Many of the races on Sunday could serve as local steppingstones to the pair of Grade II, \$200,000, 1 1/16-mile counterparts on the Saturday, Nov. 26 "Stars of Tomorrow II" program – the open Kentucky Jockey Club and Golden Rod for fillies that are part of the Road to the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks series which award points to the Top 4 finishers (10-4-2-1).

Sunday's opener also features a **2017 Churchill Downs Wall Calendar** giveaway to the first 5,000 in attendance, courtesy of **Humana**. Because it's the day before Halloween, guests are encouraged to bring family and friends as kids 12 and under are admitted free and encouraged to wear Halloween costumes for a day of safe trick-or-treating at 15 booths set up throughout the first floor of the racetrack. Churchill Downs and community partners will hand out more than 50,000 treats provided by **Mars, Inc.** between 2-6 p.m.

Sunday's **National Weather Service** forecast for Louisville calls for ideal conditions: mostly sunny skies with a high near 77.

STREET SENSE, RAGS TO RICHES OVERNIGHT STAKES AMONG HEADLINE EVENTS SET FOR CHURCHILL DOWNS' 'STARS OF TOMORROW I' FALL MEET OPENER

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, Oct. 27, 2016) – Racing's future stars will step into the spotlight as Churchill Downs Racetrack opens its 21-day Fall Meet on Sunday, Oct. 30 with its now-traditional "Stars of Tomorrow I" program devoted exclusively to races for 2-year-old Thoroughbreds. The stellar juvenile showcase includes a pair of \$80,000-added overnight stakes races in the fourth runnings of the Street Sense for colts and the Rags to Riches for fillies.

The Street Sense attracted a field of 10 juveniles headed by **Whitham Thoroughbreds LLC's McCracken** and **John C. Oxley's Speedmeister**, impressive winners in their respective racing debuts, and **Stronach Stable's Singing Bullet**, sixth to Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup Juvenile (GI) contender **Classic Empire** in Keeneland's Claiborne Breeders' Futurity (GI). The eight fillies entered in the Rags to Riches include **Semaphore Racing LLC** and **Homewrecker Racing LLC's Sailors Valentine**, dazzling winner of her debut at Keeneland; **James M. Miller's** two-time winner **Lovely Bernadette**; and **Coffeepot Stable's** recent maiden winner **Farrell**.

Those one-mile stakes events will share the spotlight on the 12th annual "Stars of Tomorrow I" kick-off with the inaugural running of the \$300,000 **Spendthrift Stallion Stakes**, a seven-furlong race for 2-year-olds sired by any active or non-active Spendthrift stallion, including all Spendthrift-owned stallions standing regionally in North America.

The Rags to Riches is scheduled to open the stakes activity as the fourth of 10 contests on the "Stars of Tomorrow I" opener that begins at 1 p.m. (all times Eastern). Post time for the Rags to Riches is 2:30 p.m., while the Street Sense is the eighth race with a scheduled post time of 4:30 p.m. and the field for the Spendthrift Stallions Stakes, set as the ninth race, is scheduled for 5 p.m.

The Street Sense is named for **James Tafel's** homebred winner of the 2007 **Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands** (GI) and 2006 Breeders' Cup Juvenile (GI) trained by Hall of Famer **Carl Nafzger**. The Rags to Riches is named in honor of the **Todd Pletcher**-trained winner of the 2007 Kentucky Oaks (GI) who was owned by **Michael Tabor** and **Derrick Smith**.

The **Mark Casse**-trained **Speedmeister**, a son of 2012 **Kentucky Derby** runner-up and first-year sire **Bodemeister**, was the favorite in his career debut at Keeneland on Oct. 9 and justified the faith of his supporters with a 4 1/2-length triumph. Jockey **Julien Leparoux** was in the saddle for Speedmeister's debut victory and will be back aboard the stablemate of **Classic Empire** as he breaks from post five in the Street Sense.

McCracken rallied from off the pace to score an emphatic 2 1/2-length victory under **Brian Hernandez Jr.** in his Oct. 2 racing debut at Churchill Downs. The **Ian Wilkes**-trained son of champion Ghostzapper will break from post two in the Street Sense.

Singing Bullet, a two-length winner for trainer **Dale Romans** in his debut at Ellis Park on Sept. 2, finished a troubled sixth of 12 in his subsequent start in the Breeders' Futurity. **Corey Lanerie** will be the third jockey in as many starts to ride Singing Bullet when he guides the son of Hard Spun from post six in Sunday's race.

Other likely contenders in the Street Sense include **Joey Keith Davis' Balandeen**, a Bernardini colt who has reeled-off back-to-back wins at Del Mar and Churchill Downs for trainer **Chris Hartman** after disappointing runs in his first two career outings; **William S. Farish** and **Mrs. W.S. Kilroy's Guest Suite**, who rallied from well off the pace to win a 1 1/16-mile maiden race on Oct. 16 at Keeneland; and **Arindel Farm's General Obvious**, a son of first-year sire Dialed In who ships to Churchill Downs following a maiden win for veteran trainer **Ronny Werner** at Florida's Gulfstream Park.

The field for the Street Sense, from the rail out (with jockey, assigned weight), includes **Perro Rojo (Ricardo Santana Jr., 118)**, McCracken (Hernandez, 118), **Senor Guitar (Calvin Borel, 118)**, Guest Suite (**Robby Albarado, 118**), Speedmeister (Leparoux, 118) Singing Bullet (Lanerie, 118), **Unbridled Eagle (Florent Geroux, 118)**, **Silent Decree (Jose Valdivia Jr., 118)**, General Obvious (**Tyler Gaffalione, 118**) and Balandeen (**Channing Hill, 118**).

Rags to Riches contender **Sailor's Valentine** dominated eight rivals in her easy seven-furlong maiden victory at Keeneland. Lanerie was in the irons for the gray/roan daughter of Mizzen Mast's debut victory and again gets the riding call from trainer **Eddie Kenneally** in the Rags to Riches. Sailor's Valentine will break from post four.

Lovely Bernadette has run on a different track in three previous races that include triumphs at Keeneland and Churchill Downs following a third-place run in her career debut on the synthetic Polytrack surface at Arlington Park. Albarado, who was in the saddle for her previous victories, will ride the daughter of Wilburn for trainer **James DiVito**.

Trainer **Wayne Catalano's** Farrell rolled to a five-length victory in her most recent outing in an Oct. 1 Churchill Downs maiden race. The daughter of Mizzen Mast had finished fourth in her Sept. 17 debut at the Louisville track in a race that has seen its top four finishers win in subsequent races. **Channing Hill**, who rode the filly in her previous two starts, will be back in the saddle.

Other contenders include **Elm Racing LLC's Holiday's Angel**, a **Brad Cox**-trained daughter of Harlan's Holiday who rolled to a 5 1/2-length win in her second career outing at Churchill Downs; **Godolphin Racing LLC's Maluku**, a Street Cry filly with a record of 1-2-0 in four races; and **Ed Wright Cattle Co.'s Naughty Little Nun**, a romping 7 1/2-length winner in her debut on dirt at Indiana Grand following a pair of disappointing runs on turf.

The field for the Rags to Riches from the rail out (with jockey, weight) includes Lovely Bernadette (Albarado, 118), Maluku (**Joel Rosario, 118**), **China Grove** (Leparoux, 118), Sailor's Valentine (Lanerie, 118), Holiday's Angel (Hernandez Jr., 118), **My Sweet Stella** (Geroux, 118), Farrell (Hill, 118) and **Naughty Little Nun (James Graham, 118)**.

Sunday's "Stars of Tomorrow I" opener at Churchill Downs is the first of 21 days of racing in a meet that will conclude on Sunday Nov. 27.

Churchill Downs, the world's most legendary racetrack, has conducted Thoroughbred racing and presented America's greatest race, the Kentucky Derby, continuously since 1875. Located in Louisville, the flagship racetrack of Churchill Downs Incorporated (NASDAQ: CHDN) offers year-round simulcast wagering at the historic track. Churchill Downs will conduct the 143rd running of the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands on May 6, 2017. The track's Fall Meet is scheduled for Oct. 30-Nov. 27. Churchill Downs has hosted the Breeders' Cup World Championships eight times and the event will return to the track in 2018. Information is available at www.ChurchillDowns.com.

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